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Agee Loses Attempt To Learn Details of British Accusations

LONDON—Philip Agee, the CIA defector who faces deportation from Britain, lost his bid yesterday to learn the exact nature of the charges against him and to confront his accusers.

A three-man panel advising the government whether Agee should be expelled denied the American writer's plea for these and other procedural protections. Official sources indicated that the panel had ruled against Agee on the grounds that his requests "would be harmful to the national interest," Washington Post correspondent Bernard D. Nossiter reported.

This was the phrase used by a Home Office aide who had earlier rejected similar pleas. Agee told the panel, "I feel somewhat like I am shadowboxing in the dark since I really do not know the specific charges I am defending myself against."

Agee has been accused by the government of distributing material harmful to British security and maintaining regular contacts with foreign spies. Their origin has not been officially identified, but government courses have said that the country in question is Cuba. Agee insists that his only contacts with Cuban diplomats here have been in connection with the publication of his book, "Inside the Company: CIA Diary."